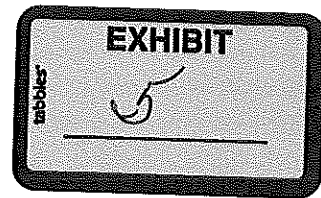


October 13, 2009



**NOTIFICATION FORM
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY IMPACT AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY
ANALYSIS**

Title of Regulation Stream Flow Standards and Regulations, RCSA sections 26-141b-1 to 26-141b-9, inclusive

Statutory Authority Section 22a-141b

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The Regulation

The proposed rules establish flow standards and other regulatory requirements for all river and stream systems in the state. These proposed rules expand the coverage of and eventually replace the existing requirements found in the Minimum Stream Flow Standards and Regulations of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, RCSA sections 26-141a-1 to 26-141a-8, inclusive. The proposed rules develop standards and regulations that balance the needs of humans to use water for drinking and domestic purposes, fire and public safety, irrigation, manufacturing, and recreation, with the needs of fish, wildlife and other biota that also rely upon the availability of water to sustain healthy, natural communities.

Expected Small Business Impact

Some small businesses that own or operate a dam or other structure that impounds or diverts the flow of water in a stream or river system may be required to comply with requirements to provide for in-stream water flows consistent with the flow standards of the regulations.

There is a five-year period in the regulation before any compliance is required, so there will be limited fiscal impact to small businesses from these regulations for the first five years. However, small businesses may need to invest in infrastructure improvements during the first few years. Then a flexible implementation schedule from five to fifteen years has been established in the regulation to reduce the impact of full compliance. These implementation periods will allow time for businesses to assess existing water use, current water supplies, and other management measures to comply. Also the implementation periods will allow the DEP to use existing staff and other available resources currently dedicated to management of stream flows to implement these regulations including develop of technical assistance documents, forms and web-based tools to assist small businesses with compliance, as they are phased in over this period.